(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Flood menace

444. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for floods in the country;

(b) what are the factor responsible for Government efforts so far in the control of floods remaining ineffective; and

(c) what is the long term solution to the flood menace in Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and in many States, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per the report of the Rashtriya Barh Ayog, the floods are caused due to over spilling of water from the river banks due to excessive precipitation combined with inadequate channel capacity. This occurs mainly due to deforestation, lack of soil conservation and indiscriminate use of land for development works.

(b) and (c) Flood Management being a State subject, the schemes for flood control are planned, funded and executed by the State Government, as per their own priorities, out of their state plans funds which are made available to them through Planning Commission. Expert Committees constituted by Government of India in the past to look into the problem of floods in the country observed that absolute immunity from floods is not practically possible. However, their impact can be mitigated by way of suitable structural and non structural measures. The recommendations so such Expert Committees have been circulated concerned Ministries/States for their implementation. In addition, Government of India has set up a National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under Disaster Management Act, 2005 for management of natural calamities, including floods. The comprehensive guidelines of "Management of Floods" issued by NDMA in January 2008 *inter alia* provides for preparation of flood management plans at national, State and district levels covering all aspect of disaster management cycle including the implementation schedule and monitoring system.

Flood management programme in Assam

445. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of schemes proposed by the State Government of Assam and those sanctioned by the Central Government under flood management programme between 2007-08;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the embankments in Assam are more than twenty five years also which needs Central attention for reconstruction; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to solve the perennial flood problem of Assam alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Government of Assam had proposed a total of 96 schemes for inclusion under "Flood Management Programme" for the year 2007-08; out of which 75 schemes were sanctioned.

(b) Yes, Sir. As per information supplied by Government of Assam, most of the embankments were constructed before eighties and have completed 25 years.

(c) Under the constitution of India, flood management being a State subject, investigation, planning and implementation of flood management schemes are within the purview of the State Government. The Central Government renders assistance, which are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature. However, in November, 2004, a State sector scheme of Rs. 150 Crore was approved by the Government of India for taking up critical flood control and anti-erosion schemes in Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys. The scheme was executed by concerned State Governments. The scheme namely, "Critical Flood Control and Anti-erosion Schemes in Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys" was revised upwardly for a total cost of Rs. 225 Crore during the Tenth plan period; to include the works on the Task Force recommendations, under Immediate and short Term-I category.

During Eleventh plan period, a State Sector scheme under Central plan, namely, 'Flood management Programme' has been approved in principle, at an estimated cost of Rs. 8000 crore by the Cabinet for providing central assistance to State Government for ongoing and new works relating to river management, flood control, anti erosion, drainage development and flood proofing works, in critical areas. Under the said scheme, an amount of Rs. 90 crore has been released to Assam as first instalment of Central assistance for 73 schemes in Assam.

Sardar Sarovar Project

446. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has been requesting time and again to grant a status of Infrastructure Project to Sardar Sarovar Project and also for declaring it as National Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Central Government thereto;

(c) the reason for not declaring it as a National Asset alongwith 14 river projects declared as a National Asset in February, 2008 in the country though Sardar Sarovar Project is the largest water resources development project of its type in the country and also in the wider interest of four States, *viz.* Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan; and

(d) what are the criteria for deciding a River Project as a National Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, The Chief Minister of Gujarat has sent a request to Planning Commission to declare Sardar Sarovar Project as a National Project. Sardar